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Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 28 October 1992, at 3 p.m.

President:	Mr. GHAFOORZAI (Vice-President)	(Afghanistan)
later:	Mr. GANEV (President)	(Bulgaria)

- Coordination of the activities of the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe: draft resolution [140] (continued)

- Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs [15] (continued)

  (a) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council

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In the absence of the President, Mr. Ghafoorzai (Afghanistan), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 140 (continued)

COORDINATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE: DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/47/L.11)

Mr. HASSANOV (Azerbaijan) (interpretation from Russian): Since I have the opportunity, I should like first to congratulate Ambassador Stoyan Ganev of Bulgaria on his election to the presidency of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. The fact that a representative of Bulgaria has been elected to such a responsible post symbolizes the significance which the world community gives to the process of democratic change which is taking place in Eastern Europe.

The democratic movement has won the victory in the cold war. For the first time, we have unprecedented opportunities to put into practice the principles which were proclaimed by the United Nations almost half a century ago. The post-confrontation world is a complex example of unity in diversity symbolized and embodied by the United Nations.

Our delegation welcomes the opportunity to discuss at this lofty forum, the General Assembly, agenda item 140, the important issue of the coordination of the activities of the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). Over a fairly short period of time, CSCE has gone through substantial changes in its development and has become an important element in the system of today's international relations. The increase in the number of States members of the Conference and its geographical expansion, reaching from Vancouver to Vladivostok, bear witness to the significance of the tasks it is facing.

(Mr. Hassanov, Azerbaijan)

We must note with regret that foremost among those tasks is the resolution of conflicts of various kinds, one of which is the inter-State conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Recognizing the special importance of the relationship between security in Europe and global security, our delegation believes that the statement by the Heads of State or Government of the States participating in the Conference to the effect that they regard the Conference to be a regional arrangement in the sense of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations has the potential for a new impetus which could strengthen the interaction between the two organizations, thereby giving practical effect to that Chapter of the Charter.

With the emergence of new features in the international context, the question of cooperation between the United Nations and regional structures has become more timely. The draft declaration on the improvement of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, submitted by the Russian Federation, is evidence of this.

Our delegation agrees with the view, expressed in the draft declaration, (A/47/33, para. 39) that the ability of the United Nations to maintain international peace and security depends to a large extent on flexible coordination and effective action by regional and subregional organizations, which are an indispensable component of the system of collective security provided for under the Charter of the United Nations.

The Azerbaijani delegation believes that greater coordination of activities between the United Nations and CSCE can be achieved by establishing permanent consultation machinery between the two organizations, first and foremost on crisis problems, thereby putting into practice the principle of preventive diplomacy.

(Mr. Hassanov, Azerbaijan)

It seems to us that the problem of maintaining peace and international security is directly linked to the recognition of responsibility at the regional and subregional levels. The Security Council, pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations, bears primary responsibility in this regard.

At the same time, we trust that the enhanced efforts of regional bodies to decentralize, delegate responsibilities and interact with the United Nations in its valuable efforts not only will help in carrying out the main work of the Security Council but also will promote the enhancement of empathy, mutually advantageous cooperation and the achievement of consensus in the process of democratization in international affairs.

As was quite rightly pointed out in Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's valuable report, "An Agenda for Peace":

> "regional arrangements or agencies in many cases possess a potential that should be utilized in serving the functions covered in this report: preventive diplomacy, peace-keeping, peacemaking and post-conflict peace-building." (A/47/277, para. 64)

We are convinced that CSCE, which is a major European forum, has exactly that kind of potential and, coordinating its activities with the United Nations, is capable of making a significant contribution to the development of democratic values and institutions, conflict prevention and settlement and cooperation in the area of security, the development of machinery for the pacific settlement of disputes and, as the priority task confronting the entire world community, the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Azerbaijani Republic welcomes the initiative taken by Czechoslovakia, the current Chairman of CSCE, to include in the General Assembly's agenda at its forty-seventh session an item on cooperation between

(Mr. Hassanov, Azerbaijan)

the United Nations and CSCE. We joined in sponsoring draft resolution A/47/L.11 and hope that it will be adopted by consensus.

Mr. ARZOUMANIAN (Armenia): The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) has been a driving force in changing Europe and the world. Over the years Armenia and Armenians relied on CSCE and the Helsinki Accords, and we are committed to the further strengthening of CSCE in order to address the challenges of today and beyond. Accordingly, we will do all we can to expand cooperation between CSCE and the United Nations. The draft resolution we are adopting is only the beginning; Armenia favours a strong working United Nations-CSCE partnership and will continue, both here and in CSCE, to press for such a partnership.

When the Helsinki Accords were first signed, there was a great debate on whether they would make the world better or worse. Many thought that the democratic countries had given away too much. Others thought that the CSCE provisions in certain areas, especially in the area of human rights, would dangerously expand international intrusion into what had previously been considered the forbidden realm of "internal affairs". For most people, however, the Helsinki Accords and CSCE opened doors to changing the world. From the beginning, unprecedented debates were held at CSCE meetings which resulted in the issuance of unprecedented documents setting higher and higher standards for international behaviour. Besides the Helsinki Final Act, the document of the Copenhagen Conference on the Human Dimension, the Charter of Paris and the Helsinki 1992 Document represent some of CSCE's monumental work. Moreover, CSCE meetings repeatedly gave exposure and help to great causes and great people.

(Mr. Arzoumanian, Armenia)

Here, we would like to pay tribute to one of those great people whose work benefited from what the Helsinki process offered - Andrei Sakharov. It is worth remembering that the world would be far less human without Sakharov, and that Sakharov probably would not have accomplished as much as he did without the Helsinki process.

Armenians placed so much value on the CSCE that we began sending representatives to meetings even before we became an independent State. After we began the road to independence, we actually sought CSCE membership before seeking membership in the United Nations. Delegates to the Moscow meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension travelled to Armenia to observe our referendum on independence, and that meeting, like others, addressed issues vital for Armenia. Our entry as a full member of the CSCE was a major event and we were proud to be part of the 1992 Helsinki meeting and all the CSCE activities which followed.

Today the CSCE is growing and changing, as all institutions must, to account for our new world. The increased membership has a greater effect on the CSCE than on the United Nations because it is such a big change in relative terms. The problems facing the CSCE also have a greater effect. Areas in which many members developed expertise are no longer as relevant to the CSCE as the organization continues the transition to a new Europe. When the transition is complete we are sure that the CSCE will continue to be on the cutting edge of progress.

One of the best developments towards making this transition work was the decision to recognize and develop the CSCE as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. The CSCE is now going well beyond its original functions into areas where the United Nations has decades of

(Mr. Arzoumanian, Armenia)

experience and expertise. Again, Armenia fully supports this growth of the CSCE as a necessary and positive development. We also vigorously support closer cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the CSCE. The two institutions can and must learn and draw from one another, as partners.

We are deeply grateful for the CSCE efforts to bring peace to our region and Armenia looks forward to starting the Minsk peace conference as soon as possible. The CSCE has unquestionably changed the world for the better and we believe that the Minsk process will yield the same type of result for our region.

Yesterday the Security Council issued a presidential statement giving its full support to the Minsk process and the Secretary-General's plans to send a representative to Nagorny-Karabakh in an effort to reach a peaceful, comprehensive settlement. That is exactly the form of cooperative activity in which the United Nations and the CSCE can best engage. There is no sense in reinventing the wheel or not taking advantage of existing resources.

In many cases we do not have the time or money to afford a duplication of effort - there are enough grim reminders in CSCE countries that building institutions which do not complement one another is a luxury we cannot afford. Thus Armenia is pleased to be a sponsor of the draft resolution to improve the working relationship between the United Nations and the CSCE and looks forward to reviewing the achievements of this new relationship at the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

We sincerely hope that both institutions will take advantage of their new relationship in moving towards our common goals of peace and prosperity. All CSCE countries are active in the United Nations and many non-governmental organizations are represented at United Nations and CSCE meetings. In

(Mr. Arzoumanian, Armenia)

addition, on questions involving armed conflicts the CSCE is uniquely positioned to make a partnership with the United Nations work because four of the five permanent members of the Security Council are also members of the CSCE. If any regional arrangement is equipped to implement "An Agenda for Peace", then it is the CSCE. The CSCE region, moreover, needs to implement "An Agenda for Peace" as much as, if not more than, any other region.

The CSCE today, with varying degrees of success, is trying to address the critical challenges facing the region and is developing new tools to do this work. Armenia is fully committed to making this transition work as smoothly, as efficiently, and with the greatest benefit to the people of the region, as possible. Working in partnership with the United Nations the CSCE of tomorrow is destined to meet the region's challenges, and Armenia will do all it can to support this partnership and make it prosper.

Mr. PASHOVSKI (Bulgaria) (interpretation from French): We are discussing today a question of special importance, the coordination of activities between the United Nations and a regional arrangement, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), which has acquired truly exceptional experience in the maintenance of international peace and security. We are doing this in the unique climate of a search for new dimensions in United Nations activities. We find the report of the Secretary-General "An Agenda for Peace" to be very stimulating and we want to give it the follow-up that it deserves.

The CSCE is a pioneer in preventive diplomacy, crisis management and the strengthening of peace. It was able to act even during the period when the Berlin Wall seemed unassailable. In the course of its existence the Conference has developed a unique system of confidence-building measures and

(Mr. Pashovski, Bulgaria)

of high standards in the field of human rights protection. It would not be too much to say that the principles and standards created by the Conference contributed decisively to the collapse of the totalitarian system in Eastern Europe.

Today when we want to be closer to each other and live in a more secure world we see that the acceptance of shared values is a prerequisite for the building of an effective system of security and cooperation. No one denies the importance of safeguarding the specific traits of each nation, or each ethnic group. Diversity constitutes the very wealth of mankind. But there are standards that must not be violated. If we want to be together a minimum of resemblance is necessary. The paradox is that some of the political personalities that accepted the establishment of the United Nations also signed the order for the Katyn forest massacre. They are no longer among us but we can say today that the compromise cost us dearly. The mistakes of the past must not be repeated.

Diversity on the basis of a common, minimal standard could very well be reflected in regional cooperation. Reality shows us that each region progresses at its own pace, creating its own specific organizations. But even if the vehicles are different they must be subject to the same rules. Our planet has become too small for disorder, and mankind has grown enough over the centuries to understand this.

The Bulgarian delegation supports the recommendation of the Secretary-General expressed in his report "An Agenda for Peace" to have links between the United Nations and the regional organizations and to make better use of their potential. The experience of the CSCE could be useful in almost all the fields reflected in the report "An Agenda for Peace". The CSCE has a

(Mr. Pashovski, Bulgaria)

foundation of norms and institutions necessary to act in the majority of the above-mentioned fields: the Council of Ministers, the Committee of Senior Officials, the Secretariat, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in Warsaw, the Conflict Prevention Centre and the Economic Forum.

I should like to mention by way of example certain possible uses of the CSCE in the field of preventive diplomacy.

(Mr. Pashovski, Bulgaria)

Let us take the question of confidence-building measures. It is well known that the CSCE has acquired a wealth of experience in this field. The Helsinki document of 1992 established an additional forum for cooperation which links negotiations on arms control, disarmament, and confidence- and security-building measures. The Centre for Conflict Prevention in Vienna, a standing institution of the CSCE, can be highly useful.

"An Agenda for Peace" reminds us of the prospects presented by fact-finding missions. In the framework of the CSCE there are many forms of missions: fact-finding missions, rapporteur missions and expert missions in the field of human rights. The procedures for sending such missions are stipulated in the Vienna Document of 1989 and in the Moscow Document dealing with missions in the field of human rights. The CSCE already has practical experience in the sending of such missions. In this context it might be possible to envisage the sending of joint CSCE-United Nations missions in Europe.

In the field of early warning the CSCE can make an important contribution to identifying potential conflicts in Europe, and for the United Nations to take the necessary measures for their prevention. The CSCE has a whole range of early warning options: the post of High Commissioner on National Minorities, whose powers lie chiefly in the field of early warning, but also in that of preventive action; and the mechanism of political consultations through the Council of Ministers and the Committee of Senior Officials.

One of the tools of preventive diplomacy is the preventive deployment of observers. The CSCE has already acquired experience through the sending of such missions to Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina. It is also taking part in the European Economic Community (EEC) missions to Bulgaria and Hungary.

(Mr. Pashovski, Bulgaria)

With regard to peacemaking, the potential of the CSCE in the peaceful settlement of disputes is important. In this regard we find eloquent examples in the Valetta Document and the draft convention on the establishment of a court of arbitration and conciliation, on which work is still continuing.

The Helsinki Document of 1992 has made it possible to conduct CSCE peace-keeping operations, which form an operational arm of the CSCE's general capacity for conflict prevention and crisis management. Among the goals of such operations are assistance on the implementation of cease-fire agreements, monitoring of troop withdrawals, maintenance of law and order, and humanitarian and medical assistance to refugees. Here, NATO and the Western European Union can play an irreplaceable role.

The Secretary-General's report designates areas where assistance could be lent by the United Nations to the work of peace-building. We agree on the imnportance of giving such assistance to a given country in restoring essential democratic values after a conflict, such as the rule of law, parliamentary democracy and respect for human rights. The Office of Democratic Institutions in Warsaw, in cooperation with the Council of Europe, is very well-equipped for this purpose.

Since the CSCE is a regional arrangement in terms of Chapter VIII of the Charter, there is no legal obstacle to using its potential in order to attain the goals of the United Nations. The specific features of the process whereby the CSCE's political will is fashioned and expressed cannot cast a shadow over cooperation. We have seen this during the Yugoslav crisis. It is the member States that bear responsibility for the success or failure of any operation.

The link between the United Nations and regional arrangements is laid down in the Charter, and when we discuss possible reform, the existing

(Mr. Pashovski, Bulgaria)

potential must be explored. We are at the beginning of a long road, and for that reason the Bulgarian delegation, together with other States, prepared draft resolution A/47/L.11, which our delegation would request the Assembly to support.

Mr. NOBILO (Croatia): Achieving a peaceful, rapid and equitable solution of disputes among nations on the basis of international law has always been the most important and intractable task for the world community. The peaceful settlement of disputes is the cornerstone of the work of regional organizations and the pillar of the United Nation Charter. Today, when regional crises pose the only real threat to post-cold-war peace and global security, closer cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and regional organizations have strategic importance and are of inescapable value in promoting long-lasting stability around the world.

The Conference of Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) - inter alia as a guardian of European peace and stability and an important link in the universal chain of collective security - has already shown its importance in dealing with potential and real crises on the European continent. But at the same time the CSCE has turned out to have a lack of suitable mechanisms to deal with destructive crises such as the one that has flared up on the territory of the former Yugoslavia. In spite of its noble and valuable efforts, the CSCE was unable to provide sufficient practical solutions to halt the aggression against Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The so-called Yugoslav crisis has underlined the importance of close and coordinated work by the CSCE and the United Nations in enforcing preventive diplomacy, peace-keeping, peacemaking and post-war confidence-building processes. The Republic of Croatia, as one of the sponsors of the draft resolution before us,

(Mr. Nobilo, Croatia)

strongly and determinedly supports strengthening the coordination of the activities of the United Nations and the CSCE.

Croatia shares the view, already expressed by certain other representatives, that the United Nations must set the tone and provide political guidance to regional organizations. Strategic leadership of the world organization in fulfilling the tasks of global security has to be combined with the specific significance and experience of the regional bodies. As the Secretary-General prudently stated in "An Agenda for Peace":

> "no two regions or situations are the same, so the design of cooperative work and its division of labour must adapt to the realities of each case with flexibility and creativity". (A/47/277, para. 62)

Following these guidelines, Croatia must emphasize the importance of finding a lasting negotiated solution to the so-called Yugoslav crisis and using all the necessary means provided by the United Nations Charter to stop the bloodshed in the Balkans.

Peace and the alleviation of the consequences of war are priorities in Croatian policy. The spread of war throughout the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina is endangering the situation in Croatia and delaying peace processes on its soil. Therefore, Croatia seeks a speedier search for a negotiated political solution in Bosnia and Herzegovina, based on the latest constitutional proposals and within the transitional but comprehensive trusteeship framework provided through the joint action of the United Nations and the CSCE.

(Mr. Nobilo, Croatia)

CSCE conflict management has simultaneously shown both its qualities and its limitations. The CSCE, though established as the foundation of European security, must complete its transformation from protector of the peace during the cold war to harbinger of the new European and world order. By working in concert with the United Nations, the CSCE will be able to accomplish that task with the speed and determination required by the world at the end of a century that is seriously threatened with emerging regional crises.

(Mr. Nobilo, Croatia)

In dealing with regional crises, the symbiosis between the United Nations and the CSCE must evolve through the valuable experience to be gained by resolving existing problems; this will also help define guidelines for the process. No theoretical model of conflict management can be a substitute for real action.

In preventing conflicts and in enforcing and keeping the peace, basic CSCE documents, particularly the Helsinki Final Act, must be combined with the provisions of the United Nations Charter. Regional arrangements under Chapter VIII of the Charter are the most applicable elements, but one must not overlook the significance of Chapter VII. When the peace and territorial integrity of States Members of the United Nations are really at stake, the world Organization should provide help, in cooperation with regional organizations, in the form of appropriate action, using all necessary measures to restore international peace and security.

The agonizing experience of the so-called Yugoslav crisis has shown that the world community is not lacking in words or in resolutions, but in determination to implement existing United Nations and CSCE documents. At this moment Croatia is asking neither more nor less than what is already set out in 22 Security Council resolutions concerning the Yugoslav crisis. Pragmatism in the day-to-day politics of some Members of the United Nations, along with the hesitation of the regional organization to take the full responsibility of its new post-cold-war role, should not endlessly delay the implementation of major United Nations resolutions concerning Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Failure to put all those documents into effect is jeopardizing much more than the stability of middle and Eastern Europe.

(Mr. Nobilo, Croatia)

Croatia will wholeheartedly vote for the draft resolution on coordination of the activities of the United Nations and the CSCE in the hope that we shall be able to enjoy the fruits of those activities in the near future. At the same time, we should like to take this opportunity to warn that regional crises in Europe and elsewhere around the world require immediate action. The enduring goals of promoting, imposing and strengthening peace cannot be achieved through debate alone; concrete action is required as well.

The PRESIDENT: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item.

I should like to announce that the following delegations have become sponsors of the draft resolution before us: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/47/L.11. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to adopt the draft resolution without a vote?

Draft resolution A/47/L.11 was adopted (resolution 47/10).

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded the present stage of our consideration of agenda item 140.*

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* The President took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 15 (continued)

ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES IN PRINCIPAL ORGANS

(b) ELECTION OF EIGHTEEN MEMBERS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The PRESIDENT: This afternoon the General Assembly will proceed to the election of 18 members of the Economic and Social Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 1992. The 18 outgoing members are: Algeria, Bahrain, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Ecuador, Finland, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jamaica, Mexico, Pakistan, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zaire.

Those 18 States are eligible for immediate re-election.

I should like to remind members of the Assembly that, as of 1 January 1993, the following States will continue to be represented on the Economic and Social Council: Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Guinea, India, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Morocco, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Somalia, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, the United States of America and Yugoslavia.

The names of those 36 States should therefore not appear on the ballots.

According to paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971, and taking into account the number of States which will remain members of the Council after 1 January 1993, the 18 members should be elected as follows: four from African States; four from Asian States; three from Eastern European States; three from Latin America and Caribbean States; and four from Western European and other States. The ballot papers reflect that pattern.

(The President)

I should like to inform the Assembly that the candidates, not exceeding the number of seats to be filled, receiving the greatest number of votes and a two-thirds majority of those present and voting will be declared elected. In the case of a tie vote for a remaining seat, there will be a restricted ballot limited to those candidates which have obtained an equal number of votes.

May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that procedure?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot, and there shall be no nominations.

I call on the representative of Mauritania, as Chairman of the Group of African States.

Mr. OULD MOHAMED MAHMOUD (Mauritania) (interpretation from French): I should like to remind delegations that the Group of African States, on whose behalf I am addressing the Assembly, has four seats to be filled in this election. For these seats, it is submitting the candidacies of the following four countries, which it recommends to all delegations: Gabon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nigeria and Zaire.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Turkey, as Chairman of the Group of Asian States.

Mr. AKSIN (Turkey): I have the honour to address the Assembly on behalf of the Asian Group to announce that the candidates of the Asian Group for election to the Economic and Social Council are: Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, Nepal, the Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka. Of these candidates, China's candidacy has been endorsed by the Asian Group.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Armenia, as Chairman of the Group of Eastern European States.

Mr. ARZOUMANIAN (Armenia): The Eastern European regional group has not been able to endorse candidates for election to the Economic and Social Council, because there are a larger number of candidates than there are seats available. The candidates are the following: Albania, Hungary, Romania, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Uruguay, as Chairman of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mr. PIRIZ-BALLON (Uruguay) (interpretation from Spanish): It is my honour to inform the General Assembly, in my capacity as Chairman of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, that the candidates of our region for the three seats on the Economic and Social Council are: Bahamas, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico and Uruguay.

The PRESIDENT: In accordance with the rules of procedure, we shall proceed now to the election by secret ballot, taking into account the statements made by the representatives of Mauritania, Turkey, Armenia and Uruguay.

Ballot papers marked A, B, C, D and E will now be distributed. I request representatives to use only those ballot papers and to write on them the names of the States for which they wish to vote.

A ballot paper containing more names from the relevant region than the number of seats assigned to it will be declared invalid. Should they appear on a ballot paper, names of Member States that do not belong to that region will not be counted at all.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Momen (Bangladesh), Mr. Guerasimovich (Belarus), Miss Argueta (El Salvador), Mr. Cantini (Italy) and Mr. El Amrani (Morocco) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Denmark on a point of order.

Mr. HAAKONSEN (Denmark): I asked to speak on a point of order in order to announce the candidates of the Group of Western European and Other States. I was not called on earlier. The candidates are: Canada, Denmark, Norway and the United Kingdom.

Mr. HUSLID (Norway): I know that this is a little extraordinary, Mr. President, but we are in a rather extraordinary situation. Several delegations have come to me and said: "We do not know which are the candidates for the Group of Western European and Other States". I think that is something quite inadmissible - we are voting without knowing which are the candidates. So, with all due respect, Mr. President, I cannot see any other solution but to take the vote again.

The PRESIDENT: I should like to inform members that in the beginning the representative of Denmark did not wish to speak. The Secretariat informed me that he would not speak.

Three or four minutes ago, I was informed that the representative of Denmark did wish to speak, and I called upon him immediately.

I now call again on the representative of Denmark.

Mr. HAAKONSEN (Denmark): We were informed that we were not supposed to announce the candidates. That is the reason why we did not ask to speak. But as soon as we realized that the other Groups had announced their candidates, we also indicated that we wished to speak in order to announce the candidates of the Group of Western European and Other States.

The PRESIDENT: This is the reality.

Mr. HUSLID (Norway): I am sorry to come back to this, Mr. President; I am not quite sure what your ruling is. I would hope that I express the feeling of everybody when I say that we want a fair vote. The fact is that, whatever has actually happened, the representative of Denmark - because of some misunderstanding - did not present the candidates from the Group of Western European and Other States before the vote was taken, and people have been coming to me and asking who the candidates for the Group are.

I think we should all like to see a fair vote, and therefore those who did not know who the candidates for the Group were should be given the possibility of finding out.

Mr. TISSOT (United Kingdom): I apologize for intervening, but I should like to associate my delegation fully with the remarks just made by the representative of Norway. There should be an opportunity for a fair election. The candidates of the Group of Western European and Other States were not made known, because of some misunderstanding, and my delegation would support a re-vote.

Mr. AINSO (Estonia): I think that it is obvious to everyone that we cannot have a fair election if people do not know whom they are voting for. However, it seems that everybody knew who the candidates from the other Groups were, because they were properly announced. Therefore, if the rules permit, I should like to suggest that we accept the voting as it stands except for the Group of Western European and Other States and have a re-vote on that particular Group only.

Mr. KABIR (Bangladesh): I think you summed up the situation rightly, Mr. President, when you said that it was the reality. But, regrettably, the situation is creating some problems. The point that the candidatures were not announced from the floor is a very pertinent one, because announcing the candidatures is the procedure that has been followed. We should like to see that procedure maintained so that the wrong precedent is not set for the future.

I think we should have a short suspension so that you, Mr. President, can deliberate carefully on the matter and take a decision on a ruling that will take care both of the past and of the future.

However, I should also like to support what has just been suggested by the representative of Estonia: one way, perhaps, of proceeding would be to have the vote for the Group of Western European and Other States taken again. As far as I can see, we could go along with that if it is thought that that would solve the problem and would not create the wrong precedent.

Mr. MONGBE (Benin) (interpretation from French): I think my task has been made easier by the statement just made by the representative of Estonia. Out of fairness, I think it would be as well to confirm the vote already conducted for the Groups on which candidatures had been announced. As for the vote on the Group of Western European and Other States, although it cannot be declared null and void simply because the candidatures were not announced, we would support Estonia's suggestion out of fairness alone. We believe that would be the wisest course.

Mr. LEGWAILA (Botswana): Mr. President, I am surprised that no one has requested that you ask us whether we knew who the candidates were from the Group of Western European and Other States. When I was given the ballot paper I knew who those candidates were. Now we are talking as if we did not know who they were. What was announced - albeit belatedly - by the representative of Denmark is exactly what I have in front of me here.

However, let me give the benefit of the doubt to those who probably did not know. Coming as I do from southern Africa and recalling that yesterday one of my colleagues from southern Africa voted after the voting and was allowed to do so - which was democratic - I would suggest, in all fairness, that we re-vote on the Group of Western European and Other States, if we think that not everybody knew who the candidates were, but allow the votes on the other Groups to go through. I think that is what we should do in order to make a long story short.

Mr. SOMAVIA (Chile) (interpretation from Spanish): I share the concern expressed by the representative of Norway, and I agree with the proposal of the representative of Estonia. I think you are aware, Mr. President, that the feeling in the Hall is that all the regional groups should be able to feel certain that the procedure we are following is in

(Mr. Somavia, Chile)

keeping with the interests of all. I believe that the suggestion by the representative of Estonia is acceptable to members. It is in accordance with rule 88 of the rules of procedure, which states that if there are problems in the way the voting is proceeding it is possible to intervene. I think that the question before us involves the conduct of the voting and that if you, Mr. President, were to put the matter to the Assembly, it would agree with the procedural proposal made by the representative of Estonia, and that would put us on safe ground so far as procedure is concerned.

Mr. SERRATE CUELLAR (Bolivia) (interpretation from Spanish): I think that virtually everything has been said that needs to be said. We support the position of the countries of Europe. I believe that the grounds they have mentioned give them every right to request that the vote be taken again. For, whatever the result at the end of the meeting, it would be obvious to everyone if a lack of knowledge had caused even one vote less.

Hence, I think we should follow the procedure proposed by the representative of Estonia, which appears to have the support of the majority of members.

Mr. HAAKONSEN (Denmark): Mr. President, you did not announce at the beginning of the Assembly's consideration of this item that the regional groups should speak. It was our understanding that we should not ask for the floor to announce our candidates. However, as soon as I heard you call upon the representative of one of the regional groups, I signalled that I also wished to be called upon in order to announce the candidates from the Group of Western European and Other States.

Having said that, I should like to support the suggestion made by the representatives of Estonia, Bangladesh and Chile, and others, that we should have a new vote only on the Group of Western European and Other States.

(Mr. Haakonsen, Denmark)

The PRESIDENT: I should like again to inform members of the Assembly that I was informed by the Secretariat that the representative of Denmark would not be speaking. This was a misunderstanding, and I think the representative of Norway is right in asking for a new decision. Hence, as President, I think it would be correct to announce that there will be a new vote on the Group of Western European and Other States.

I think the proposal of the representative of Estonia has now been discussed and can be adopted. If there is no objection, it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

The meeting was suspended at 4.25 p.m. and resumed at 6.55 p.m.

The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

GROUP A - AFRICAN STATES

Number of ballot papers:	172
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	172
Abstentions:	3
Number of Members voting:	169
Required two-thirds majority:	113
Number of votes obtained:	
Gabon	167
Nigeria	165
Zaire	165
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	164
Senegal	1

GROUP B - ASIAN STATES

Number of ballot papers:	172
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	172
Abstentions:	0
Number of Members voting:	172
Required two-thirds majority:	115
Number of votes obtained:	
China	149
Republic of Korea	139
Sri Lanka	134
Bhutan	90
Nepal	88
Afghanistan	50
Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea	8
Indonesia	4

GROUP C - EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES

Number of ballot papers:	172
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	172
Abstentions:	3
Number of Members voting:	169
Required two-thirds majority:	113

Number of votes obtained:

Russian Federation	127
Romania	115
Ukraine	103
Hungary	86
Albania	34
Bulgaria	12
Czechoslovakia	1

GROUP D - LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES

Number of ballot papers:	172
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	172
Abstentions:	1
Number of Members voting:	171
Required two-thirds majority:	114

Number of votes obtained:

Cuba	105
Mexico	102
Guatemala	94
Bahamas	90
Uruguay	86
Venezuela	1

The following countries, having obtained the required two-thirds majority, were elected members of the Economic and Social Council for a period of three years beginning on 1 January 1993: China, Gabon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka and Zaire.

The PRESIDENT: I congratulate the States which have been elected members of the Economic and Social Council.

Since five seats remain to be filled - one seat from among the Asian States, one seat from among the Eastern European States, and three seats from among the Latin American and Caribbean States - a second round of balloting is required. I therefore propose that, with the agreement of the Assembly, that we hold the second round of balloting for the Asian, Eastern European and Latin American and Caribbean States simultaneously with the first round of balloting to elect four members from among the Western European and other States. May I take it that the Assembly agrees to that procedure?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Denmark, as Chairman of the Group of Western European and Other States.

Mr. HAAKONSEN (Denmark): On behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States, I hereby announce the candidates of the Group. They are: Canada, Denmark, Norway and the United Kingdom.

The PRESIDENT: Ballot papers marked B, C, D and E will now be distributed.

With regard to the first round of balloting for the Western European and other States, I request representatives to use only those ballot papers marked E and to write on them the names of the four States from among the Western European and other States for which they want to vote. A ballot paper containing more than four names will be declared invalid. Should they appear on a ballot paper, the names of Member States not belonging to that region will not be counted at all.

(The President)

With regard to the second round of balloting for the Asian, Eastern European, and Latin American and Caribbean States, the second round of balloting will be restricted to those two States from among the Asian States which were not elected but which obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot - namely, Bhutan and Nepal; to those two States from among the Eastern European States which were not elected but which obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot - namely, Hungary and Ukraine; and to those six States from among the Latin America and Caribbean States which were not elected but which obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot - namely, Bahamas, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, Uruguay and Venezuela. This is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

I request representatives to write on the ballot papers the names of the States for which they want to vote. Ballot papers marked B, for the Asian States, will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Bhutan or Nepal as well as if they contain the name of more than one State; ballot papers marked C, for the Eastern European States, will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Hungary or Ukraine as well as if they contain the name of more than one State; ballot papers marked D, for the Latin American and Caribbean States, will be declared invalid if they contain the names of States other than Bahamas, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, Uruguay or Venezuela as well as if they contain the names of more than three States.

A ballot paper containing more names than the number of seats assigned to the relevant region will be declared invalid. Names of States on the ballot paper which are from outside the relevant region will not be counted at all.

I now call on the representative of Venezuela.

Miss TRUJILLO (Venezuela) (interpretation from Spanish): I wish to inform the Assembly that Venezuela is not a candidate for the Economic and Social Council.

The PRESIDENT: We shall take into account the statement just made by the representative of Venezuela.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Momen (Bangladesh), Mr. Guerasimovich (Belarus), Miss Argueta (El Salvador), Mr. Cantini (Italy) and Mr. El Amrani (Morocco) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 7.20 p.m. and resumed at 8.45 p.m.

The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

GROUP B - ASIAN STATES

Number of ballot papers:	171
Number of invalid ballots:	13
Number of valid ballots:	158
Abstentions:	2
Number of Members voting:	156
Required two-thirds majority:	104
Number of votes obtained:	
Bhutan	96
Nepal	60

GROUP C - EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES

Number of ballot papers:	171
Number of invalid ballots:	3
Number of valid ballots:	168
Abstentions:	7
Number of Members voting:	161
Required two-thirds majority:	108
Number of votes obtained:	
Ukraine	106
Hungary	55

GROUP D - LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES

Number of ballot papers:	171
Number of invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	170
Abstentions:	2
Number of Members voting:	168
Required two-thirds majority:	112
Number of votes obtained:	
Mexico	114
Cuba	110
Guatemala	85
Bahamas	80
Uruguay	62
Venezuela	1

GROUP E - WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHER STATES

Number of ballot papers:	171
Number of invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	170
Abstentions:	3
Number of Members voting:	167
Required two-thirds majority:	112

Number of votes obtained:

Norway	165
Denmark	162
Canada	161
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	153
Greece	1

The following countries, having obtained the required two-thirds majority, were elected members of the Economic and Social Council for a period of three years beginning on 1 January 1993: Canada, Denmark, Mexico, Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The PRESIDENT: I congratulate the States which have been elected members of the Economic and Social Council.

Mr. BUDAI (Hungary): I should like to announce that Hungary hereby withdraws its name from the balloting.

Mr. EHLERS (Uruguay) (interpretation from Spanish): To help achieve a result in the voting within our regional group, Uruguay has decided to withdraw its candidature.

Mr. ACHARYA (Nepal): In the interest of solidarity within our group, Nepal has decided to withdraw its candidature.

The PRESIDENT: We shall take into account the statements just made.

Four seats remain to be filled: one seat from among the Asian States, one seat from among the Eastern European States, and two seats from among the Latin America and Caribbean States. A third round of balloting is therefore required. I should like to propose that, owing to the lateness of the hour, we continue with this election tomorrow morning. I should like members to understand why I make this proposal.

As members may know, the preparations for another round of balloting are time-consuming. First of all, new ballot papers have to be prepared reflecting the new situation, that is, reflecting the number of seats still to be filled. Also, the Secretariat has to prepare the procedural notes required for carrying out the balloting in an orderly way. Last but not least, we have to request members of delegations to serve as tellers to continue counting ballots. The counting of ballots is in itself a time-consuming endeavour, especially when so many regional groups have not endorsed candidatures. In these circumstances, tellers have to be especially careful, counting the ballots a second time if necessary.

Does any member wish to comment on this proposal?

Mr. VAN LIEROP (Vanuatu): Mr. President, I have taken very careful note of your observations with respect to the difficulty of continuing the balloting at this hour. The observations you made are certainly very pertinent and very accurate. However, in looking at how close we appear to be to a final result, and given the great difficulty that some of us, particularly smaller delegations, might have tomorrow morning, might we enquire whether it would be possible to have one more ballot this evening as a way of perhaps finishing the voting?

Mr. MONGBE (Benin) (interpretation from French): My delegation understands and shares your concerns, Mr. President. The hour is indeed late, but the withdrawal of a number of delegations has made things easier. We would note that the number of candidates is now the same as the number of seats to be filled. In those circumstances, we might make a further effort. And as my friend the representative of Vanuatu so rightly said, some delegations do not have the large staff required to cover tomorrow morning's Committee meetings and to be present in this Hall for the voting.

We are nearly there; we can succeed. We ask you, Mr. President, to let us try one more ballot.

Mr. MOUMIN (Comoros): I agree with my good friend from Vanuatu. We are still in the midst of a series of restricted ballots. The procedure has always been to complete the restricted balloting; if we are going to postpone the rest of the voting, this should be done after the restricted ballots have been exhausted. I believe we should try one more time and then if there is no conclusion we can postpone the remainder of the voting.

Mr. KABIR (Bangladesh): I should like to support the proposal made by the three preceding speakers. The little work remaining can perhaps be done quite quickly. Also, as the representative of Vanuatu rightly said, the smaller Missions have certain problems; my delegation agrees fully. It is now late enough that some of the appointments we may have had have been lost anyway, so we might as well stay a little while longer and finish the job tonight.

Mr. JARAMILLO (Colombia) (interpretation from Spanish): I support the proposal made by a number of delegations that we make one last effort this evening to complete the process.

Mr. SACIRBEY (Bosnia and Herzegovina): I would suggest that we proceed with the voting this evening but that, since most of the delays seem to have occurred during the counting process, the results be announced at tomorrow morning's meeting.

Mr. VAN LIEROP (Vanuatu): I think that the very imaginative and creative suggestion just made by our friend and colleague the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina has a great deal of appeal, but my delegation would prefer that we follow the normal procedure and announce the results tonight.

The meeting was suspended at 9.05 p.m. and resumed at 9.30 p.m.

The PRESIDENT: Since four seats still remain to be filled - one seat from among the Asian States, one seat from among the Eastern European States, and two seats from among the Latin American and Caribbean States - we shall now proceed to the second restricted ballot, taking into account the statements made by the representatives of Hungary, Uruguay and Nepal.

This third round of balloting will be restricted to those two States from among the Asian States which were not elected but which obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballots - namely, Bhutan and Nepal; to those two States from among the Eastern European States which were not elected but which obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballots - namely, Hungary and Ukraine; and to those four States from among the Latin American and Caribbean States which were not elected but which obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot - namely, Bahamas, Cuba, Guatemala and Uruguay. This is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

Mr. EHLERS (Uruguay): I remind members that my delegation has withdrawn from the election.

Mr. BUDAI (Hungary): I too remind members that Hungary has withdrawn its name from the ballot.

The PRESIDENT: Ballot papers will now be distributed. I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers the names of the States for which they wish to vote. Ballot papers marked B, for the Asian States, will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Bhutan or Nepal as well as if they contain the name of more than one State. Ballot papers marked C, for Eastern European States, will be declared invalid if they

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contain the name of a State other than Hungary or Ukraine as well as if they contain the name of more than one State. Ballot papers marked D, for Latin American and Caribbean States, will be declared invalid if they contain the names of States other than Bahamas, Cuba, Guatemala and Uruguay as well as if they contain the names of more than two States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Momen (Bangladesh), Mr. Guerasimovich (Belarus), Miss Argueta (El Salvador), Mr. Cantini (Italy) and Mr. El Amrani (Morocco) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 9.45 p.m. and resumed at 10.20 p.m.

The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

GROUP B - ASIAN STATES

Number of ballot papers:	163
Number of invalid ballots:	7
Number of valid ballots:	156
Abstentions:	3
Number of Members voting:	153
Required two-thirds majority:	102
Number of votes obtained:	
Bhutan	153

GROUP C - EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES

Number of ballot papers:	163
Number of invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	162
Abstentions:	3
Number of Members voting:	159
Required two-thirds majority:	106
Number of votes obtained:	
Ukraine	159

GROUP D - LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES

Number of ballot papers:	163
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	163
Abstentions:	0
Number of Members voting:	163
Required two-thirds majority:	109
Number of votes obtained:	
Cuba	107
Bahamas	99
Guatemala	87
Uruguay	1

The following countries, having obtained the required two-thirds majority, were elected members of the Economic and Social Council for a period of three years beginning on 1 January 1993: Bhutan and Ukraine.

The PRESIDENT: I congratulate the States which have been elected members of the Economic and Social Council.

Since two seats remain to be filled from among the Latin American and Caribbean States, we shall now proceed to a third restricted ballot. This fourth round of balloting will be restricted to the four States from among the Latin American and Caribbean States which were not elected but which obtained the largest number of votes in the ballot just taken - namely Bahamas, Cuba, Guatemala and Uruguay. This is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

(The President)

Ballot papers will now be distributed. I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers the names of the two States for which they wish to vote. Ballot papers containing the names of States other than Bahamas, Cuba, Guatemala and Uruguay, as well as any containing more than two names, will be declared invalid.

In this connection, I would remind members of the statement made by the representative of Uruguay.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Momen (Bangladesh), Mr. Guerasimovich (Belarus), Miss Argueta (El Salvador), Mr. Cantini (Italy) and Mr. El Amrani (Morocco) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 10.40 p.m. and resumed at 10.55 p.m.

The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

GROUP D - LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES

Number of ballot papers:	144
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	144
Abstentions:	0
Number of Members voting:	144
Required two-thirds majority:	96
Number of votes obtained:	
Cuba	103
Bahamas	96
Guatemala	70
Uruguay	2

The following countries, having obtained the required two-thirds majority, were elected members of the Economic and Social Council for a period of three years beginning on 1 January 1993: Bahamas and Cuba.

The PRESIDENT: I congratulate the States which have been elected members of the Economic and Social Council, and I thank the tellers for their assistance in this election.

That concludes our consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 15.

The meeting rose at 11 p.m.